

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims submitted in the present application.

**Listing of Claims**

- 1     1.     (Previously Presented) A method of authenticating end-user clients  
2     requiring access to services available in a computer-based communication  
3     system, comprising the steps of:
  - 4             a) at an authentication server connected in said communication  
5     system, defining a list of authentication modules available in said  
6     communication system, and mapping said authentication modules to  
7     authenticating domain identifiers associated to end-user clients of said  
8     authentication server, wherein said authenticating domain identifiers each  
9     comprise an application service identifier;
  - 10            b) sending, by an end-user client, a respective authentication domain  
11    identifier to said authentication server;
  - 12            c) creating, by the authentication server and depending on the  
13    authentication domain identifier, an authentication stack specific to said end-  
14    user client, said stack comprising one or more stack entries, each mapped to a  
15    respective authentication module;

16           d) rendering, for each stack entry and depending thereon, an  
17 authentication service provided at said respective authentication module to  
18 produce an authentication result for that entry; and  
19 e) consolidating authentication results to obtain an authentication status for  
20 the end-user client.  
21

2-3. (Canceled)

1       4.     (Original) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein the  
2 authentication service includes local and remote services.

1       5.     (Original) The method as defined in claim 4 wherein the local and  
2 remote services include but are not limited to biometric schemes,  
3 cryptographic hardware services, smart cards and USB tokens.

1       6.     (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1 further  
2 comprising, sending a unique session identifier to the end-user client  
3 responsive to an authentication status corresponding to a successful  
4 authentication.

7-8. (Canceled)

1 9. (Currently Amended) A The system as defined in claim 7, for  
2 authenticating an end-user client in a computer-based communication system  
3 comprising:

4 means, at the end-user client, for sending an authenticating domain  
5 identifier to an authentication server, wherein said authenticating domain  
6 identifier comprises an application service identifier;

7 means, at the authentication server and depending on the  
8 authentication domain identifier, for creating an authentication stack  
9 comprising one or more stack entries;

10 means for rendering, for each stack entry and depending thereon, an  
11 authentication service to produce an authentication result for that entry; and

12 means for consolidating authentication results to obtain an  
13 authentication status for the end-user client,

14 wherein the authentication server, dependent on the application ID,  
15 retrieves a configuration specifying how to create the authentication stack.

10-12. (Canceled)